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COUNCIL PAPERS, 1698-1701

(From the Originals in the Virginia State Library)

(CONTINUED)

THE EARL OF NOTTINGHAM TO GOVERNOR NICHOLSON.

Whitehall 20th October 1702

Sir

The Queen commands me to acquaint you that she would have you assist the Naval or Victualling Agents in the ports or places under yor command or the Captains or other proper Officers if there be no such Agents in procuring Credit for such Stores & provisions as they may want from time to time for the use of her Matys Ships of war wch shall arrive there, and in such case the sd Agents or Officers are directed to draw Bills on the Navy Board for making good the said Credit, which bills the Navy Board are Ordered to accept and pay I am

Yor most humble Servant

Nottingham

To Francis Nicholson Esqr
her Matys Lieut &c. of Virginia
or to the Governor or Commander
in Chief of the sd Colony &
Dominion for the time being.

J. BURCHETT TO GOVERNOR NICHOLSON

Admiralty office 19 November 1702

Sr

I take this opportunity of owning the receipt of the last Letter you did me the favour to write me, and hope this will find you in health.

The ship wch brings you this carrys orders to the Capt of the Southampton to returne to England with the Trade ready to sail from Virginia, and you will also receive from the Captain a letter from the Earl of Nottingham to give him Credit for Stores & provisions to enable him to performe his voyage.

I doubt not but before this arrives you will have heard of our general great & good Success, both in Flanders, Newfoundland, Vego in Gallicia &c at the last of which places we have taken or destroyed all Monsr Chateau Renaulls Squadron and the Galleons that came with him from Mexico, and Capt Leake besides taking 30 prizes has ruined all the ffrench Southern plantacons in Newfoundland. Another year like Success will Sufficiently humble the French King wch God grant

I desire you will forward the inclosed pacquets to Maryland, New York and New Engl^{d} wch are about giving Credit to her Matys Ships & believe me to be

Dear Sir

Yo^{r} most faithfull humble servant

J. Burchett

Matters are not yet adjusted
concerning what you proposed
of the Virginia Fleets sailing
from hence & leaving that
Country

To his Ex'cy Govr Nicholson Virginia

The Queen to Governor Nicholson

Anne R.

Trusty and welbeloved We greet you well Whereas a petition has been presented to Us by Wm Byrd Esqr (stiling himself Agent appointed by the people of Virginia) together with a petition in the name of the Council and Burgesses of that our Colony and Dominion relating to a Contribution of money and a Quota of men (or money in lieu thereof) towards the defence of our Province of New York And whereas we have caused the

same to be examined by our Commissioners for Trade & plantacons who have represented to us

"That our Dearest Brother the late King having judged it "requisite for the general security of the Plantations upon the "Continent of America that they should upon occasion assist "each other in proportion to their respective abilitys And sig-"nification having accordingly been made to the Governors of "several Plantacons of the Quota of assistance judged requisite "for the security and defence of the said province of New York: "Our said Dearest Brother was pleased by his Letters of the "19th of January 1700-1 to require you to recommend to the "Council and Assembly of Virginia the furnishing their Share "of a Contribution for that service That you did accordingly "communicate to them the sd Letters & press them to a Com-"plyance, but found them unwilling to furnish what was ex-"pected from them That upon this occasion they constituted "an Agent of their own directing him to present their petition "to our sd Dearest Brother, & to sollicite an Approbation of "their proceedings

"That they (our sd Commissioners) do humbly conceive it "would prove of very ill consequence in the Governmt of our "plantacon if countenance should be given to this manner of "Application. And that the Councils and Assemblys should "thereby be encouraged to make Representacons to us by par-"ticular Agents of their own Appointment without the consent "of our Governors, except only when those Representacons "contain matter of Complaint agt the Governor for male admin-"istration or that he refuse to transmitt or represent what they "desire.

"That in the present case no application was made to you, "nor is the said petition presented to us in the name of the "Council and Burgesses of Virginia signed by any more than "four members of the said Council

"And that besides the objections against the manner of pre-"senting the sd petition, They (our sd Commrs) are humbly of "opinion that the reasons therein offerred by the Petitioners "for excusing themselves from the foresaid Contribution are "insufficient for that the Forts at New York are so far advanced

"towards Canada as to be a common security as well to Vir-
"ginia as to New York, Both those provinces (tho they ly dis-
"tant from each other) having no other Barrier against the
"French."

Our Will and pleasure therefore is, that you represent to our said Council, and the Assembly of our Colony and Dominion of Virginia the irregularity of this proceeding; That you further recommend to them in our name what has been already proposed by our late Dearest Brother for our assistance to be given by our plantacons on the Continent of America to each other, and particularly by Virginia to New York, and that you continue to use yor best persuasion to incline them to a voluntary complyance. So we bid you farewell. Given at our Court at St. James's the day of 1702 in the first year of our Reign.

By her Majestys command
Nottingham

THE GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK TO GOVERNOR NICHOLSON

New York 9th November 1702

Sir

When I went to visite the Northern ffrontiers of this province I found them in a most miserable condition, in no manner capable of making any defence in case they should be attacked by the French of Canada. I have already begun a ffort at Albany with the assistance of the 2000 pounds given by his late Majesty towards the erecting such fforts & ffortifications as should be necessary towards the defence of the Frontiers, and finding by my instructions that I am comanded to apply myself to the Governors of the sev'll Colonys upon this Continent for the sev'll Sums appointed to be furnished by the said Colonys respectively towards the s^d fortifications, I therefore trouble yor Excellency with this Letter, earnestly to intreat you that upon this exigency the sum appointed to be furnished by the Colony under yor Governm^t wch I find to be 900 pounds Sterl: may be remitted hither by the very begining of the

Spring: and I do not question but by the help of that & the Quota's to be furnished by the other Colonies I shall put the ffrontiers into such a posture as not to fear any attempt the ffrench can be able to make, but that on the Contrary we may be able if requisite to attack them, but if not timely supplyed our ffrontiers must still remain exposed to ye insults & invasions of the ffrench wch may prove of fatal consequence not only to this Colony but to the whole Continent. I am

S^r

Yo^r very faithfull humble Servant

Cornbury.

THE QUEEN TO GOVERNOR NICHOLSON

Anne R.

Trusty and welbeloved We greet you well Whereas we have thought fitt to order several Stores and provisions of war to be sent from the Office of our Ordinance in the Tower of London to that our Colony of Virginia for our Service there, wch with the ffreight and incident charges thereof according to our Estimate made by the Master General of our Ordinance a Copy whereof you will receive herewith amounts to ye Sum of three thousand three hundred eighty eight pounds three shillings & four pence Which our intention is shall be defrayed out of our Revenue of Quittrents within our said Colony. Our will and pleasure therefore is that you forthwith cause the said Sum of three thousand three hundred eighty eight pounds three shillings & four pence being the cost & charges of the said Stores to be paid & satisfied out of our said Revenue of Quittrents arising within our said Colony of Virginia by transmitting Bills of Exchange for the like sum payable to the Treasurer or paymaster of the Office of our Ordinance here for the time being, And for so doing this being first entered with the Auditors of our Imprest here to the end of the said Treasurers of our Ordinance may be duly charged for the said moneys shall be yor Sufficient Warrant. And our further will and pleasure is that in case you

shall find it requisite for our service to direct the delivery of any of the said Stores for the Ordinary Service of our militia. You take care that we be reimbursed for the same according to the said Estimate by such persons to whom the s^d^ Stores shall be delivered, And that the money arising thereby be put into the hands of our Receiver General of our said Colony to be disposed of in such manner as we shall think fitt to direct for our service in that our Colony And so we bid you very heartily farewell. From our Court at Windsor this 20th day of August 1702 in the first year of our Reign.

By her Maties command
Godolphin.

An Estimate of the cost & charges of the Armes &c under mentioned for one thousand foot & four hundred horse in her Ma'tys Colony of Virginia according to a Memorial on the behalf of Coll. Nicholson Governor thereof referred to my Lord Romney as is signified by the Earl of Nottingham's sister of the 9th present

	£	s	d
Snap Musquets 1000 at 20s each	1000.	0.	0
Cartouch Boxes, 1000 at 2s. 4d. each	116.	13.	4
Carbines, 400 at 26s. each	520.	0.	0
Belts wth for Do., 400 at 4s. each	80.		
Pistols wth holsters, 400 pr. at 30s. a pair	600.		
Swords horse, 400 at 7s. 6d. each	150.		
foot, 1000 at 4s. each	200.		
Belts for Do. Shoulders, 400 at 4s. each	80.		
Wast, 1000 at 2s. each	100.		
Cornpowder—80 Barrels at	320.		
Shott Musquet—3–4 Carbines—0–8 Pistols—0–8 at 16 p. Tunn	64.		
Chests for packing Arm 70 at 10s. 6d. each	38.	10.	
Freight for 34 Tunns & other incident charges at 3£ 10s. p Tunn	119.		
	3388.	3.	4

Office of the Ordinance
16 June 1702.

BOARD OF TRADE &c TO THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA

Whitehall November ye 4th 1702

Sir

We have writt you several letters upon particular occasions wch we understand have come safe to Yo^r hands; But something remains yet to be said in answer to those we have received from you, the dates whereof are as followes viz three of the 2d of December last, one of the 25th february another of the 21st March, and the last of the 29th July Together with which we also received the several papers therein referred to.

You have a little mistaken the sense of what we ordered our Secretary to desire you to observe in the method of yor correspondence. It is not separate Journals of the proceedings of the Council & Assembly upon differrent matters that we desired; Those Journals are more usefull entire, and ought always to contain the daily proceedings of those Courts, whatever they may be according to their dates. But we left it to yor discretion to write separate letters upon particular Subjects whenever you found occasion, and we have always desired that yor Letters may in all matters of importance explain yor Sense in some measure without obliging us to seek into other papers for the meaning of it.

As for the contribution required from the Assembly of Virginia for the defence of New York and their proceedings thereupon on constituting an Agent here to present their Address ag^st it, and to sollicite an Approbation of their conduct in that matter, We send you here inclosed a copy of Her Majestys Order in Council of the 21st of May last upon our Representacon of the 8th By wch you will perceive we have been far from countenancing that method And her Majesty having been pleased thereupon to Order Us to prepare a letter to you for her Royal Signature, we accordingly did it And the same having been sent to you in June last by Collonel Quary We refer you thereunto for the direction of yor Conduct in that affair.

We were sorry to observe the account that you give us of the ill State of the Militia in Virginia, and having represented the same to Her Majesty with our opinion for a Supply of Arms

You will perceive the effect thereof by her Majestys Letter to you of the 20th of August last Countersigned by the Lord Treasurer, a copy whereof having been communicated to Us, we herewith send it you, tho' we hope you will have received the Original before this come to yor hands.

Upon this Subject of the Militia we will only further offer to yor thoughts the example of a late act in Maryland by which all Masters are obliged to furnish their servants with a Gun of 20s. value at the expiration of their time of servitude, wch seems to us one very good means to keep them armed, and in a condition to defend themselves when there may be occasion. The exercising and Rendevouzing the several Counties, so that they may best assist each other being a matter that lyes plain under yor eyes We can only recommend and Leave it to you.

Yor Proposal that a Sufficient Squadron of men of war may be sent to cruise upon the Coasts of the Continent from the begining of April to the end of October has also been laid before her Majtie.

The Bill that was on ffoot the last Sessions of parliament for re-assuming the propriety Governmts in America to the Crown did not pass for want of time. But you will do well at any time to furnish us with what authentick Memorials and prooffs you are able for the promoting of that service, when opportunity offerrs.

We well approve of yor proposal that all her Matys Governors on the Continent may have a meeting to consult of matters for Her Majestys interest, and tho the Proprietary Governors be not excluded upon occasion, Yet it may be so ordered that her Matys Governors may meet Separately from the Proprietors and confer together.

The Naval Officers accounts wch you have sent us, notwithstanding the plain directions given you by our Orders in our Secretarys letter of the 21st August 1700 are still very confused. The Totals not added up, and many of them so writt that they cannot be added up, nor scarce any of them fit to be bound up in Bookes as we desired. So that they are of little use to us. We intreat you therefore to take better care that the respective Officers do observe those directions, And to assist them therein

we send you here inclosed the copy of our account of Exportacons received from Jamaica wch is very regular. The like method must also be observed in Importations, expressing the Quantitys of each particular sort of goods according as you are directed by yor instructions relating to Trade and summing up the Total at the foot of each Column.

Since the Revisal of the Laws proves so tedious a work, We desire you would in the mean time send us a complete Collection of those that are at present in force, and since you say one reason of the retardment of the Com^{tees} proceedings in that business is for want of our Assistant, and that there is a General want in the Countrey of persons fitly qualified for Offices, We think it ought to be so much the more yor care to encourage the Natives to apply themselves to the acquiring of Qualifications necessary. But if there be absolute need that our Attorney General or any other such considerable Officer be sent from hence, you must in the first place take care that competent provision be made for their Support and advise us of it; ffor it is not to be imagined that any men of Learning and parts ffitt for such employments will leave their Native Country without good assurance of such provision made for them in America.

Upon consideration of what you write of the difficulty to gett together a Quorum of Councellors and upon a letter from Mr Burwell desiring because of his age & infirmitys to be excused from that Service, We proposed to her Majesty that he may be excused, and that Mr Philip Ludwell, Mr William Bassett, and Mr Henry Duke be put in to supply the present vacancies. All which having accordingly been done We send you here inclosed the copies of her Majestys Orders in Council thereupon, dated the 14th of May last.

The Charitable disposition of the people towards the French Refugees is very commendable and we have no objection ag^{t} yor conduct in the business of their Settlement.

We have communicated what you write about yor conduct in proclaiming the Queen to ye Secretarys Office, and accordingly it has been published in the Gazette.

The Dispatch of the New Seals intended for all her Majestys Plantacons will require some time, But since you have Her

Majestys warrant to make use of the old one till further Order, there will be no inconvenience in it.

We congratulate yor recovery from yor late sickness, and doubt not of the continuance of yor care in all things committed to yor charge, So we bid you heartily farewell.

Yo^{r} very Loving friends
Dartmouth
Rob. Cecil
Ph. Meadows
Wm. Blathwayt
John Pollexfen
Mat Prior.

The several Addresses to
her Majesty wch we receiv'd
in yor Letter of the 29th July
last have been transmitted
to the Earl of Nottingham
in order to be presented to
her Majesty as his Lord'p
shal find convenient.

(TO BE CONTINUED)